



The Richmond Claddagh

Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

<http://richmondias.org/>

June 2008

The Annual IAS Picnic – The fun and feasting begin on Sunday, June 8, at 1 pm at Pat and Helen Burke's farm in Amelia. Burgers, hot dogs and condiments are provided, but you are asked to please bring a side dish or dessert to share, beverages for you and yours, and lawn chairs. If you are a new member, this is a wonderful way to get to know the other members, and it's a beautiful country setting and always one of our big turnout events. Karon Bell has some great "yard games" ready for anyone interested in some friendly competition and a special guest is coming – "Pádraic – The Magic Seanachie" bringing magic feats for the young and the young at heart. The IAS picnic is truly one of the best days you'll ever have out in the country with your IAS friends... See Ya!

Picnic Driving Directions: From Helen Warriner Burke - Take 360 West out of Richmond. After crossing the Appomattox River into Amelia, go about 3-4 miles and you will see a billboard on your side of the road, a McDonald's billboard. (Only billboard in the county; you can't miss it if you are looking for billboards.) Slide over into the left lane and about a half mile further turn left onto 627, which is Cheatham's Road. (DON'T turn onto 628 which comes first - that's not Cheatham's Road) The Salvage Shed is at the corner of 627. Go about 3/4 of a mile down Cheatham's (627) and the picnic is at the two-story white house on the left. The number, 9943, is on the mailbox. If you have any problems, call 804-561-5778 or 804-366-6925.

THE ELECTION AT THE PICNIC: The election of Officers and Board members will take place at the summer picnic this year. The nomination slate for the open positions include:

Secretary: Stephen Gallagher

Treasurer: Anne McGehee

Board of Directors: Larry David, Nancy Emig, Joan Finnegan, Sallie Gordon, Frank Hardy and Ed Mayers.

What a great predicament for the Society. There are actually more folks volunteering to run for the open spots on the Board – than there are openings. C'mon out & Vote!

JUNE PUB SUPPER!

Come one – come all -or as many as can make it to the IAS June Pub supper. Our Pub Master, Ed Mayers has another fun supper planned for the membership. The June supper is set for Dublin's Irish Pub at 7526 Mechanicsville Tpk, Mechanicsville 23111 (804-723-5582). Pub owner Michael O'Leary is a member of the IAS and a strong supporter of local Irish events.

IAS AT THE DIAMOND! Join in the IAS fun at the Richmond Diamond for an evening of old fashioned fun watching the game between the Richmond Braves and the Pawtucket Red Sox on **Sunday July 6th at 6PM** at the Diamond. Join us early and yes – by all means, bring the kids (and their mitts too!) We've got great reserved seats behind the visitors' dugout and those mitts might come in handy! We need 25 fans to get these seats at \$8 (a real deal) and Dan Begley will collect from IAS members in front of the "Will Call Window" (outside the front gate) the night of the game. **You can call Dan at 740-5631 or E-mail him dbegley55@hotmail.com** if you are able to attend. Help us get the numbers we need for that good admission price and come on out for a good time with your fellow Irish! Your guests are welcome too.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The IAS extends a warm welcome to our newest members:

- Jim Mahone joined in April and to our good fortune was able to join us at the Pub Supper at O'Toole's.
- The Panas Family, Daniel, Anne, Kyle, Bridget and Madelyn also joined in April.
- Doug, Cathy, Rhane & Willow Elder joined in May. Doug is the editor of the St. Andrew's Legion newsletter and Cathy provides the all important Irish heritage to their family ☺
- Tim & Valerie Batten –joined at the May IAS meeting after Tim's wonderful program on bagpipes (See the newsletter for information on a great 4th of July program that Tim is involved with)

We are looking forward to getting to know you all better – and a great opportunity to "meet and greet" is the upcoming (kid-friendly) IAS picnic on the 8th! We hope you'll all be able to join us.

The May IAS Meeting

I hope that you were able to attend the May meeting with the presentation on bagpipes given by our newest member, Tim Batton. Tim provided lots of interesting tidbits and information on the history of the Pipes, the construction of the pipes and generally "All Things Pipes!" One of our members said that the presentation was so interesting – they were shocked when it was time to close the meeting. Now that's the sign of an interesting program. I, for one, had to be out of town and missed the meeting – so I hope that Tim will do the presentation again for us sometime. In fact -that might be a great joint meeting with some of our other Celtic groups in Richmond. Many, Many Thanks go out to Tim for his efforts

TOURIST TIP: VISIT DUBLIN'S PHOENIX PARK

Phoenix Park is one of the world's largest urban parks **and is larger than all of the parks in London combined!** The park boasts 1752 acres of walks, trees, picnic-tables, lakes and of course, Dublin Zoo and Farmleigh.

THE PARK: Located on the north side of the city and just a short hop from the city centre (it may even be within walking distance depending on where you stay), the park is crammed with trees! Aras an Uachtarain is located in the park and is the residence of the President of Ireland. Monuments include the Papal Cross, the Wellington Monument and the Phoenix Monument. The Deerfield Residence is the official residence of the US ambassador to Ireland. The visitor centre is located at Ashtown Castle that dates from the fifteenth century. The park is a great place for a picnic or a good hearty walk! Many Dubliners will use the park at weekends with Sunday walks being popular.

THE ZOO: Dublin Zoo is located within Phoenix Park and comprises of 30 acres that will take you on a voyage of discovery that stretches from the fringes of the Arctic to the Plains of Africa via Indian Rainforest. Today Dublin Zoo is recognized as one of the most modern in Europe - and is increasingly an integral part of European Zoo breeding program. Crucially though - it's a great day out for all the family. See lions and tigers, gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans, rare monkeys, rhinos, hippos, giraffes and many more exotic and endangered species - and of course our new beautiful baby elephants - the first of their species to have been born on Irish soil. As well as the multitude of animals children will love the pets' corner, the unique meerkat restaurant, city farm and the safari train ride around the African Plains.

FARMLEIGH: Farmleigh is an estate of 78 acres located within the grounds of Phoenix Park and was purchased from the Guinness family by the Irish Government in 1999 for 29.2m Euro. The house has been carefully refurbished by the Office of Public Works as the premier accommodation for visiting dignitaries and guests of the nation, for high level Government meetings, and for public enjoyment.

Originally a small Georgian house built in the late 18th century; Farmleigh was purchased by Edward Cecil Guinness (1847-1927) on his marriage to his cousin, Adelaide Guinness in 1873. A great-grandson of Arthur Guinness, founder of the eponymous brewery, Edward Cecil became the first Earl of Iveagh in 1919. The first major building program was undertaken in 1881-84 to designs by Irish architect James Franklin Fuller (1832-1925), who extended the House to the west, refurbished the existing house, and added a third story. In 1896 the Ballroom wing was added, designed by the Scottish architect William Young (1843-1900).

With the addition of a new Conservatory adjoining the Ballroom in 1901, increased planting of broadleaves and exotics in the gardens, Farmleigh had, by the early years of the 20th century, all the requisites for gracious living and stylish entertainment. Its great charm lies in the eclecticism of its interior decoration ranging from the classical style to Jacobean, Louis XV, Louis XVI and Georgian.

In 2001 the Office of Public Works began the delicate job of restoring this magnificent estate. This was carried out with great delicacy and care so as the historical ambience at Farmleigh has been preserved as it assumes its new role on behalf of the Irish State. Tours of the house and gardens are available from 10.30am to 4.40pm. There is a small cafe onsite.

You can get more interesting Ireland Travel Information at this website

<http://www.ireland-information.com/irishtouristinformation.htm>

Irish Genealogical Online Record Search System

Hi all, I am on the mailing list for this Research Service in Ireland. There are fees associated with in depth searches, but I am thinking that their website might be of interest to some in the IAS as you search for family records. Even if you don't have a computer at home, you can use the information to access through computers at your area library. This is their recent email message:

"The Irish Family History Foundation's Online Research Service (ORS) are pleased to announce the addition of the records of the **Co. Sligo Heritage and Genealogy Society** covering the parishes and districts of county **Sligo**. This adds another 200,000 baptismal, birth, death and marriage records to our database.

Just go to the following sites and if you have one -login using your existing IFHF login details. <http://sligo.brsgenealogy.com> or search across all counties at <http://ifhf.brsgenealogy.com>

Remember that you can purchase and spend your credit at any of the IFHF online centers. In the coming weeks Graveyard Inscriptions and Census information will be added to the data sources. If you have any questions or comments please check [FAQ](#) on the website and if this does not provide an answer, then do not hesitate to contact us. "

William Butler Yeats -

"I have believed the best of every man. And find that to believe is enough to make a bad man show himself at his best, or even a good man swing his lantern higher"

Did You Know - The great majority of Muslims in Ireland are Sunni, and in the Republic of Ireland Muslims now outnumber Presbyterians and Methodists combined.

Special Offer for IAS Organizations – Received at our IAS Website - <http://richmondias.org/>

Dear Friends: I am writing to Irish American organizations around the area to ask if any of your members would like to subscribe to the Irish Echo newspaper. We are America's oldest and largest Irish-American weekly with subscribers in all 50 states, Ireland, Canada and around the globe. We cover news, sports, the arts and all things Irish here in the United States and Ireland. Showcase your events by submitting photos to our Echo Nation feature. We are celebrating our 80th Anniversary this year and would like to offer your members a special rate of \$39.95 for a one-year subscription. Our normal rate is \$50.00 per year and the weekly newsstand price is \$1.75 outside the New York City area, so this would be a substantial savings. If this is something you might want to consider please contact me at 212-482-4818 ext 123 or by e-mail moboyle@irishecho.com. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely, Madeline O'Boyle Subscription Manager Irish Echo Newspaper 11 Hanover Square, 13th Floor New York, NY 10005-2818 (212-482-4818 ext. 123) moboyle@irishecho.com www.irishecho.com

For our Younger IAS Members

Did you know that local PBS Stations are carrying a cute little cartoon show called [Jakers!](#) Each episode of Jakers! is set in two distinct places and times: The most significant location, and the heart of the show, is Raloo Farm in the rural Irish village of Tara in the 1950s. Here, young Piggley Winks and his friends have all kinds of adventures, and the occasional misadventure, and in the process, they learn the important lessons of life.

The beginning and end of each episode take place in a modern-day intergenerational household where Piggley Winks-now "Grandpa Piggley"-Lives with his daughter, granddaughter and twin grandsons in a bustling American city. As Grandpa Piggley tells the stories of his youth to his young "grandpigs," he transports everyone back to his childhood home on Raloo Farm.

(I haven't seen the show, but Jim Kelly tells me that one episode told the story of Finn McCool – it might be a fun thing to check out with the kids or the grandkids.)

The Word Blarney – What it is and How It's Used

"Baloney is the unvarnished lie laid on so thick that you hate it. Blarney is flattery laid on so thin that you love it." (Bishop Fulton J. Sheen)

Blarney is nonsense talk used mainly to charm foreigners – For example, (Overheard in O'Neill's in Dublin)....."They say the ghost of Finn MacCumhall still stalks the Grand Canal. Buy another round and I'll tell you all about it, my American friend."

Dear Members –

The IAS is always working to find activities and events that interest our members. An important part of the "shelf life" of any organization is the participation by its members. If you have ideas for programs, events, activities etc – for the group – please contact Dan Begley, our VP and also our Chairman of Programs and activities. 804-740-5631 or dbegley55@hotmail.com -

The Quotable Irish

"I often sit back and think, 'I wish I'd done that'. And then I find out later that I already had".

(Richard Harris – Actor)

"In 1969 I gave up women and alcohol, and it was the worst twenty minutes of my life".

George Best (Footballer)

"Life for a GAA player isn't all beer and football. Some of us haven't touched a football in months.

(A Kerry Footballer (1984)

Membership News

The Membership renewal forms for June will be mailed out with the June newsletter. At the same time, IAS members whose membership expired earlier than June will also receive another renewal form with their newsletter.

It is really a big help and time saver if the forms are returned in the month they are due. If you have a problem or want to ask any questions about your renewal, please call me at 804-323-6415 – if I'm not home, just leave a message and I'll call you back. You can also email me at bearfan46@verizon.net If I don't hear from you – I'll assume that you've forgotten – and I'll send renewal reminders for two months.

To date, the IAS membership roster has 151 members with 12 renewals due from April and May.

Thanks, Nancy Emig – Membership

GAELIC PHRASES OF THE MONTH

It's June and if family weddings are coming up-these might just come in handy for those Wedding Toasts ☺

- Nil aon leigheas ar an ngra ach posadh
(*Neel ain laygus air on grah ock pus-idd*)

The only cure for love is marriage

- An rud a lionas an tsuil lionann se an croi
(*On rud ah lean-uss on sewell lean-onn shay on kree*)

What fills the eye fills the heart

- Giorraionn beirt bothar
(*Gurr-on bert boh-hurr*)

Two shorten the road

St. Columcille (Edward T. O'Donnell/The Irish Echo-06/2001) On June 9, 597 AD, the great monk Columcille blessed his followers and died at the altar of his monastery chapel. His had been a long and extraordinary life of preaching, teaching, and writing, as well as founding monasteries in Ireland and Scotland. It profoundly affected not only the early Christian church, but also the very foundation of western civilization itself.

St. Columcille was the greatest of Ireland's Christian missionaries after Patrick. He was born in Garton, County Donegal in 521 AD. Named Crimthann (or Fox), he belonged to a royal family (the O'Neill's) in the line of the great High Kings. From childhood he was placed in the care of a local priest who educated him for the religious life. Later he studied for the priesthood under Bishop (and future saint) Finian of Clonard. At his ordination he took the name Colum, or dove. Later as he gained a reputation to establishing churches and monasteries the cille ("of the churches") was added. Many know him as Columba, the Latinized version of his name.

As with most ancient saints, most of what we know about Columcille comes from the writings of later hagiographers who added embellishments, myths, and miracles to the basic biography. The best source for Columcille is a biography written by his famed successor, Adamnán (or Adomnán). From it we learn that the monk was an imposing figure: "A man well-formed, with powerful frame; his skin was white, his face broad and fair and radiant, lit with gray, luminous eyes." He possessed an engaging voice, a nimble mind, and charismatic personality. But Columcille was also zealous and hot-tempered, character traits that served him well in some instances, but that ultimately led to his near demise.

One story that captures the essence of his personality involved an altercation with his mentor, Finian. Columcille loved books, especially a psalter (a book of Psalms) owned by Finian. Secretly, he copied the manuscript in his room (in the dark with the page lit by light emanating from his fingertips according to one legend). When Finian found out, he demanded the original and the copy (books were extremely rare in those days). When Columcille refused to surrender the latter, the case went before King Diarmaid who issued his famous edict: "to every cow its calf, to every book its copy." Reluctantly, Columcille handed over the book. It would not be his last encounter with the king.

Soon after the psalter incident, Columcille began his life as a missionary. His predecessor Patrick had done much to establish Christianity in Ireland, but in the mid-6th century it remained an overwhelmingly pagan society. Traveling throughout the north of Ireland, Columcille earned a reputation for his success in winning converts, establishing churches, and founding monastic communities – as many as 40 by the time he was 41. The turning point Columcille's life came in 561 A.D. when he again clashed with King Diarmaid. He'd offered sanctuary to a man who

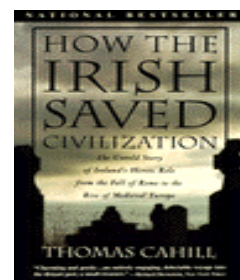
sought protection from the king after accidentally killing his son in a sporting event. When the king violated the sacred law of sanctuary by having his soldiers break into the monastery and execute the man, Columcille fled north to rally his kinsmen. Whether or not he actually planned to spark a war, he got one. His supporters laid waste to the army of Diarmaid in the Battle of Coolbreve, killing 3,000 and losing only one of their number.

Columcille won back his book, which thereafter was known as The Cathach ("Warrior"), and was carried into battle by the O'Donnell's for centuries to come. But it was small compensation given the punishment he received for causing the bloodshed. Briefly excommunicated, he soon received his penance: he must leave Ireland forever and carry Christianity to pagans abroad.

At the age of 42 he set out in a small curragh with twelve followers. They headed north and eventually chose to settle on Iona, a small island off the coast of present-day Scotland. Irish missionaries had already arrived to preach among the Picts and Scots, but it was Columcille whom history would record as the man who Christianized Scotland.

Their monastery quickly achieved a wide reputation and received a steady stream of monastic applicants. To keep Iona from growing too large and to spread the faith, Columcille repeatedly sent groups of monks out to establish new communities. By the time of his death on Iona in 597 A.D., he and his charges had established 60 monasteries in Scotland.

His successor, Aidan, continued his mission into northern England and others pressed on still further to the European continent. As Thomas Cahill writes in his wonderful book, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, "Just as Cuchulainn had served as the model of prehistoric Irish manhood, Columcille now became the model for all who would earn the ultimate victory. Monks began to set off in every direction, bent on glorious and heroic exile for the sake of Christ." These Irish monks brought with them not merely the message of Christianity, but also the collective knowledge (and books) of western civilization that had been all but eradicated during the barbarian destruction of the Roman Empire. Thus did St. Columcille play a decisive role in both the spread of the early Church and the "saving of civilization".



This book might be of interest if you haven't read it...

Our newest member – but long time IAS supporter - Tim Batten brings us notice of an event that will give you and yours a chance to celebrate July 4th in a most touching and patriotic manner – while you give honor to that American portion of your Irish American heritage. Have a great and safe 4th and maybe I'll see you there?

FAMILIES OF THE WOUNDED FUND

Join us on the 4th for a Benefit for the Families of the Wounded Powhatan VA

This 4th of July will be like none other with a full orchestra, a 100-voice choir, a Marine Corps Color Guard, a military flyover, special guest speakers, soloists and the St. Andrews Legion of Pipes and Drums.

Come for an All-American outdoor picnic. Admission is free. Concessions are available.

July 4th 1:00pm
At Vista del Lago 1960 Old Tavern Road
Powhatan, Virginia

A symphony orchestra and choir will perform a two-hour patriotic concert plus the St. Andrews Legion of Pipes and Drums. Among the selections are America the Beautiful, God Bless America, Stars and Stripes Forever, the 1812 Overture and many more, as you have never heard them before.

This event will run from 1-5 pm. It is picnic style so bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets. Food concessions are available. We are expecting a large crowd so come early to find a good spot on the lawn. Formal flag raising, static displays, a 5k run/walk will take place at 9:00 am. Runners can register online at www.RRRC.org. For more information on the run call Kevin O'Conner at (804) 378-6268. **A military flyover will begin the concert at 1:30 pm. Following the concert there will be an aerial demonstration by a World War II P-51 Mustang then a stirring performance by the St. Andrews Legion of Bagpipes and Drums.**

Special Guest Speakers

Paul Galanti was a prisoner of war for nearly seven years in North Vietnam's infamous Hanoi Hilton complex. Since his return in February 1973, he has continued to serve his country in many different fields. Today, Galanti actively supports Families of the Wounded Fund, coming to the aid of wounded soldiers and their families. Galanti states, "It's the most rewarding thing I've ever done."

Lee Ware has a long history of serving his community both in the classroom and in the political sphere. Currently, he is serving his sixth term in the House of Delegates from the 65th District. Delegate Ware will read

the Declaration of Independence, shedding light on what it meant to the founders and what it should mean to us today.

Directions from Midlothian Turnpike (US Route 60) and State Highway 288:

- Head west on Midlothian Turnpike (US Route 60) for 14.5 miles from the 288/60 interchange.
- Turn left onto Emmanuel Church Road. 0.4 miles. Emmanuel Church Road becomes VA-13. Continue straight 5.3 miles.
- Turn right onto Old Tavern Road. The party is 0.3 miles on the right.

[Click Here for A Google Map to the site](#)

For more information call Clyde Childress at (804) 598-8661.

[Families of the Wounded Fund website](#)

The Families of the Wounded Fund is a 501C3 IRS certified charity registered April 7, 2005.

This event requires no specific political affiliation – it is a benefit for our wounded military who seek medical treatment for injuries sustained in the line of duty or in support of our troops in combat operations. 100% of all donations and funds collected go to the families of the wounded.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Lots of good Irish fun coming up.... Check out the events listing on the last page.

Are you not seeing the kinds of things you'd like in the newsletter... please send along your ideas for articles, articles you've run across, an article written by you, Irish jokes, Irish recipes, anything you'd like that is Irish in nature. Don't forget to let me know about Irish events, festivals, music appearances, (especially by our musical members)

Last minute addition:

I just received news that our new Member.. Tim Batten – has responded favorably to a request from President, Gloria Cahen – and has agreed to provide some wonderful pipe music at the IAS picnic on June 8th... the countryside, the pipe music, your IAS friends..... honestly... can life get any better??? See ya at the picnic!

And that's a wrap for the June newsletter... take care -

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Click on links in calendar and you can hear song selections from the artists and ALWAYS click the link directly below to get the latest updates on upcoming events
<http://richmondias.org/index.php?content=upcoming>

June 5, 12. 19 26 th 7pm	Turf Fire – IAS Members Mary Smith & John Robison at Dublin's Irish Pub 7526 Mechanicsville Tpk. Mechanicsville 23111 Phone 804-723-5582
June 7 th	The Havers *** – 9:30 pm Dublin's Irish Pub – Mechanicsville - Irish music with a kick!
June 7 th	Ashland Strawberry Fair Va. Scots Guards Pipes/Drums http://www.ashlandstrawberryfaire.com/
June 8 th – the fun starts at 1pm	World Famous - IAS Summer Picnic – fun for the whole family. Elections for Officers and Board members will be held at the picnic You are asked to please bring a side dish or dessert to share, beverages for you and yours, and lawn chairs. Lawn games for all ages and Special Guest - Pádraic – The Magic Seanachie for your fun and enjoyment – Directions in the newsletter
June 14 th	Potomac Celtic Festival Leesburg, VA, Morven Park http://www.potomaccelticfest.org/
June 20 th	IAS Pub Supper – Dublin's Irish Pub (7526 Mechanicsville Tpk, Mechanicsville 23111 804-723-5582) – Please call Ed Mayers – 804-379-5577 and make your reservation for the Pub Supper. As always we need to get a count in so that everyone can get seated together. Meet at 6:30 pm
June 21 st	Press Gang ** ** 7 pm – 9:30 Dublin's Irish Pub – Dublin's Irish Pub 7526 Mechanicsville Tpk. Mechanicsville 23111 Phone 804-723-5582– Providers of Sea Chanties and all brands of Celtic music... A great group and lots of fun... includes IAS member Jim Beatman!
June 22 nd – 4pm Ha Penny Stage Dogwood Dell	IAS Member – Jonathan Austin – our resident Juggler, Acrobat, Magician has delighted crowds of all ages since he was 14 years old. Jonathan combines an outstanding personality that relates to all ages, with a hilarious sense of humor, timing, skill and feats to provide a truly "must see" show Nothing Irish about this show... except Jonathan!!! So support one of our own --- and have fun if you can go – this is really a family friendly event. Dogwood Dell Web site
July 4 th	St. Andrew's Pipe & Drum at Wounded Warrior Event in Powhatan – See article in newsletter
July 5 th	The Haver's 9:30– Dublin's Irish Pub – Dublin's Irish Pub 7526 Mechanicsville Tpk. Mechanicsville 23111 Phone 804-723-5582
July 6 th –	IAS to the Old Ballpark! Come out and join us for one of the last games in Richmond – The Braves vs the farm team of the Boston Red Sox. We need 25 or more to get the discount rate of \$8.00 for the box seat area. Bring the kids – we are close to the field and last time, the players were happy to sign mitts, baseballs hats and caps and such. A great way to spend a nice summer night. Please call Dan Begley 804-740-5631 to confirm a reservation so that we have a count. In order to reserve the special price – we need to put a deposit down to secure the box seats. Meet Dan Begley at the “Will Call Box” and he will collect the money for your tickets. C'MON OUT for fun with your fellow IAS members - close to home and easy on gas!!
July 19 th	The Haver's 9:30– Dublin's Irish Pub – Dublin's Irish Pub 7526 Mechanicsville Tpk. Mechanicsville 23111 Phone 804-723-5582

Don't forget to send me information on Irish/Celtic events that you hear about. If you are one of our IAS member musicians... send me your schedule for the upcoming months... We want to lend our support!